

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/002,295

Examiner

Joon H. Hwang

Applicant(s)

ELIAS ET AL.

Art Unit

2166

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to a telephone interview with Thierry K. Lo (Reg. No. 49,097) on 6/23/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3,4 and 6-15 (renumbered as 1-13).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The applicants amended claims 1 and 15, canceled claims 16-20, deleted specification paragraphs [0005.1] and [0018.1]-[0018.7], and deleted drawing fig. 2 in the amendment received on 4/5/06.

The pending claims are 1 and 3-15.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thierry K. Lo (Reg. No. 49,097) on 6/23/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

Rewrite claim 1 as follows:

"1. A computer-implemented method for managing knowledge data in a knowledge database, comprising:

capturing and storing existing knowledge data in the knowledge database based on a predetermined format of selected information categories grouped in a plurality of workflows, wherein each of said workflows includes a sequence of steps, wherein each step is linked to at least one other step in chronological or

logical manner, and each step is built through a user defined form of a plurality of different forms having information fields containing one or more links;

abstracting the captured knowledge data using meta data;

organizing the abstracted captured knowledge data into an index in the knowledge database having information including links between related knowledge data, the index structured according to the abstracted captured knowledge data;

acquiring new knowledge data by using user-defined forms of said plurality of different forms;

capturing and storing the new knowledge data in said predetermined format; and

updating the knowledge database to include the new knowledge data and links between the new knowledge data and related knowledge data.”

Rewrite claim 3 as follows:

“3. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein said capturing the new knowledge data further comprises:

identifying the most critical element of the new knowledge data.”

Rewrite claim 4 as follows:

“4. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing timely and relevant information to a selected user based on predefined and user-modifiable preferences.”

Cancel claim 5.

Rewrite claim 6 as follows:

“6. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein said existing knowledge data and said new knowledge data are presented in a hierarchical tree.”

Rewrite claim 7 as follows:

“7. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein said existing knowledge data and said new knowledge data include a plurality of human-based processes.”

Rewrite claim 8 as follows:

“8. The computer-implemented method of claim 7, wherein said plurality of human-based processes include business and management processes.”

Rewrite claim 9 as follows:

“9. The computer-implemented method of claim 7, wherein said plurality of human-based processes include engineering processes.”

Rewrite claim 10 as follows:

“10. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising:
remotely accessing said knowledge database via a network of computers.”

Rewrite claim 11 as follows:

“11. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising:
applying knowledge data to a task; and
tracking progress on said task.”

Rewrite claim 12 as follows:

“12. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising:
annotating the new knowledge data.”

Rewrite claim 13 as follows:

“13. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising:
setting up a plurality of criteria associated with the new knowledge data,
said plurality of criteria modifying said links between the new knowledge data and
related knowledge data based in said plurality of criteria.”

Rewrite claim 14 as follows:

"14. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein said knowledge database includes fields defined by the captured existing knowledge data and the new knowledge data."

Rewrite claim 15 as follows:

"15. A program storage device readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a processor of the computer to perform a method for managing knowledge data in a knowledge database, the method including:

- capturing and storing existing knowledge data in the knowledge database based on a predetermined format of selected information categories grouped in a plurality of workflows, wherein each of said workflows includes a sequence of steps, wherein each step is linked to at least one other step in chronological or logical manner, and each step is built through a user defined form of a plurality of different forms having information fields containing one or more links;

- abstracting the captured knowledge data using meta data;

- organizing the abstracted captured knowledge data into an index in the knowledge database having information including links between related knowledge data, the index structured according to the abstracted captured knowledge data;

- acquiring new knowledge data by using user-defined forms of said plurality of different forms;

capturing and storing the new knowledge data in said predetermined format; and

updating the knowledge database to include the new knowledge data and links between the new knowledge data and related knowledge data.”

3. The pending claims are 1, 3-4, and 6-15.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1, 3-4, and 6-15 are allowed.

Claims 1 and 15 identify the distinct features, “capturing and storing existing knowledge data in the knowledge database based on a predetermined format of selected information categories grouped in a plurality of workflows, wherein each of said workflows includes a sequence of steps, wherein each step is linked to at least one other step in chronological or logical manner, and each step is built through a user defined form of a plurality of different forms having information fields containing one or more links; acquiring new knowledge data by using user-defined forms of said plurality of different forms; capturing and storing the new knowledge data in said predetermined format”, which are not taught or suggested by the prior art of records. The closest prior art, Swartz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,236,994) disclosing a knowledge integration system having an enterprise workflow system as a portion of a knowledge management system for more efficient use of knowledge data within an enterprise, fails to suggest the

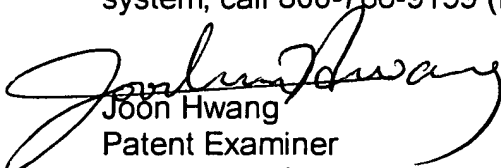
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claimed limitations as mentioned above in combination with other claimed elements. The above features in conjunction with all other limitations of the dependent and independent claims 1, 3-4, and 6-15 are hereby allowed.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joon H. Hwang whose telephone number is 571-272-4036. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00(M-F).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain T. Alam can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Joon Hwang
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100

6/23/06